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**STELLENBOSCH**

Mayor's Parlour,  
24th June, 1960.

## Main Roads

Stellenbosch, unlike many other towns, is faced with a dual problem, namely the preservation of what makes it unique and the control of the increasing volume of traffic caused by the continued increase in the number of motorcars on the roads. It is fully realised that the ideal solution is to provide for a natural and organic flow of traffic with due regard for the safety not only of motorists, but also of cyclists and, last but not least, pedestrians. As always the question of expense raises its head and the best use has to be made of available funds. What is essential has to be done first and if at all possible, planning includes the possibility of improvement at a later stage. Reservation of the necessary land must never be overlooked.

When planning main roads, not only the Council but also the Provincial Administration, which subsidises main roads heavily, must approve of the designs. Mention has previously been made of the fact that Blersch Street has been proclaimed a main road, which will form the link between Adam Tas Street and the road leading to Somerset West and the Strand. Undoubtedly this road will, in time to come, carry very heavy traffic.

A new impetus has been given to main road planning because of the decision of the South African Railways Administration to provide an overhead bridge over the railway to the north of Du Toit Station which will obviate the Bird Street level railway crossing. This bridge had been given priority and the funds have been made available. The bridge in itself might be a fairly simple matter, but the necessity of providing connections for Klapmuts Road and further important traffic arteries along the Plankenburg River or even along the slopes of

Papegaaisberg, requires careful thought. The matter is at present under consideration by the District Roads Engineer.

It is further necessary to establish the best possible continuation of Adam Tas Street towards Du Toit station and its relation to Bird Street. Every effort must be made to facilitate access to the town for visitors and those wishing to transact business there, but at the same time through traffic which wishes to pass Stellenbosch, must be catered for and, as far as possible, separated from purely local traffic — and all this with due regard to unhampered and natural flow.

Considerable progress can also be reported in connection with a further important main road, namely Merriman Avenue. It has long been felt that Merriman Avenue should be continued in an easterly direction beyond Simonswyk and that it should join up with Helshoogte Road to the north of Idas Valley. The present Banhoek Road will cease to be a main road but still play an important part in feeding the northern part of the town, including Idas Valley.

After a great deal of thought and discussion between the engineers of the Council and those of the Provincial Administration, the centre line of the extension of Merriman Avenue beyond Simonswyk has been plotted, and this will enable the Council to proceed with the preparations for the layout of a new residential township in the Union Park area. It is envisaged that there will be service roads which will lead the traffic from the proposed new township into the main road at carefully selected spots, and above all that there will be an attractive link of open land between the existing open spaces and the approaches to Botmaskop.

Thought will also be given to the provision of sites for educational purposes, churches and possibly to the establishment of sites which are truly suitable for general residential buildings in as much as they will create no insuperable traffic problems and will not interfere with the amenity of sites for single dwellings.

There will be an important road link between Merriman Avenue and Jonkerhoek Road through Aanhou-Wen, so that Jonkershoek Road and van Riebeeck Street will not be unduly burdened with the heavy traffic that will come into existence when the trees in the government plantation at Jonkershoek have matured and have to be felled.

The future network of roads along the Eerste River and in the area to the south of it, will in due course have to be carefully studied as considerable development has been taking place there also.

In connection with all this we have to guard against it that the somewhat cynical words of an American architect do not come true in the case of Stellenbosch, namely "Progress usually means giving up something worthwhile for something less attractive".

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1 Julie 1960.

## Taxidiens en -Staanplekke:

Die aandag van die publiek word daarby bepaal dat twee taxi-staanplekke voorsien is, een vir blankes — waarvan die telefoonnommer 1271 is — en een vir nie-blankes — waarvan die telefoonnommer 0026 is. Daar is reëlings getref vir 'n redelike gereelde diens maar ingeval die publiek enige moeilikhede ondervind met die verkryging van 'n taxi sal die Raad baie bly wees om van die omstandighede dadelik in kennis gestel te word sodat sonder versuim grondige ondersoek ingestel kan word.

Ander verkeersake oor die algemeen, sal ter geleger tyd behandel word.

## Nuwe Werke:

Dit is verblydend om te kan meld dat die nuwe 8" hoofwaterpyp na Dalsig gelê is en dat met die bou van die sement reservoer aangegaan word. Hierdeur is die waterprobleem vir huishoudelike doeleindes vir daardie hele omgewing baie na aan sy oplossing. Tegelykertyd word die 12" pyp tussen die opvangdam in die Jonkershoek en die bestaande diensreservoir gelê. Die suksesvolle tenderaar het dadelik 'n aanvang gemaak met die werk en alhoewel weersomstandighede en die vloedwater van die Eersterivier vertraging veroorsaak het, vorder die werk bevredigend. Soos reeds vroeër bekend gemaak, sal hierdie pyp help om die Idasvalleidam vol water te hou. Ook met die lê van die nuwe 5" hoofrielpyp is 'n begin gemaak. 'n Aanvang is gemaak vanaf Platklip waar die rioelwaters gesuiwer word. Hierdie pype is geweldig swaar en die werk word deur die departement van die stadsingenieur gedoen.

## Uitroei van Knaagdiere:

Die Raad het daartoe oorgegaan om weer 'n voltydse knaagdierbeampte aan te stel. Daar bestaan geen twyfel dat die bestryding van knaagdiere aandag moet geniet nie. Die

knaagdierbeampte is altyd beskikbaar vir persone wat raad nodig het veral hoe om van rotte ontslae te ra. Hy sal ook moet sorg dat geboue geen skuiling bied vir knaagdiere nie; onder andere sal die rivierwalle en openbare plekke sy besondere aandag geniet.

### **Aanplant van Plantasies:**

Dit is die beleid van die Raad om munisipale gronde wat veral ongeskik is vir intensiewe boerdery, geleidelik met bome te beplant. Boere, wie se grond vir plantasiedoeleindes geskik is, is alreeds kennis gegee van die voornemens van die Raad sover dit moontlik geag word, om dit binne die eerste 5 jaar na Maart 1962 vir die doel te gebruik. Verdere besprekings van die hele vraagstuk sal gedurende Julie-maand plaasvind.

### **Jonkershoek Piekniekterrein:**

Die Provinsiale Administrasie het die eiendom aan die oorkant van die rivier aangekoop en volgens dr. D. Hey, word daar 'n ambisieuse verbeteringsprogram beoog in die vorm van wild- en plantereservate. Dit is ook die bedoeling om 'n skema uit te werk waardeur voorsiening gemaak word vir geriewe van piekniekgangers teneinde botsings en oorvleueling te voorkom. Veral wat toesighoudende personeel betref, sal dit vir die Administrasie baie makliker wees om die diens te verskaf aangesien daar reeds huisvesting vir sulke persone beplan is.

Die kwessie vir die voorsiening van verdere piekniekterreine en moontlike karavaanparke geniet ook aandag.

### **Idasvallei Sportterreine:**

Die Raad van Beheer oor die Idasvalleise sportterreine beoog groot verbeteringe aan die geriewe op die sportterreine en as gevolg van onderhandelings met die Raad en tegemoetkoming van weerskante, sal die skema hopelik binnekort voltooi wees.

### **Afskeid van Twee Ou Bekendes:**

Die dae van die ou gebou bekend as „Eendracht” in Dorpsstraat ten weste van die dameskoshuis Rosenhof, is getel. Die gebou is so bouvallig dat dit deur die Uniale Publieke Werke-departement as onveilig en gevaarlik verklaar is. Dit sal dus

binnekort afgebreek word en vir altyd verdwyn. Wat die toekoms van die perseel gaan wees, is onbekend.

Die outydse klerekas, uit die boedel van wyle E. M. Roux, wat al baie jare in die Raadkamer staan, is deur die Provinsiale Administrasie aangekoop en sal binnekort verwyder word. Dit is vir die Administrateurswoning, Leeuwenhof, bedoel. Die oudhede wat daarin gebêre was, sal na Phillimore Ives Gedenkmuseum oorgeplaas word en dit bring die vraagstuk van behoorlike huisvesting en vertoning van oudhede te berde.

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8th July, 1960.

## Automatic Telephone Exchange

The plans prepared by the Public Works Department for the automatic telephone exchange building which will be erected on the open land to the west of the new Magistrate's Court Buildings have been received. We are informed that the equipment has already been ordered and it is expected that the building will be erected during the coming year as tenders have already been received and as far as the Council can ascertain, the work has been awarded. The design follows a standard established by the Public Works Department and although it shows evidence of adaptation to fit in with the Magistrate's Court, particularly as far as the roof covering is concerned, some uneasiness is nevertheless felt as to the ultimate appearance. As matter stand at present, it would appear as if the design as now submitted will have to be accepted. It is to be regretted that the Department concerned did not submit preliminary sketches for scrutiny.

## Determination of Group Areas

The public has been informed from time to time of the effort that the Council has made to obtain a decision as so much depends on it from the point of view of further work on the very great problem of housing. It appears that the Western Committee of the Group Areas Board has completed this work and that the proposals pertaining to Stellenbosch will be submitted to the main body within the next few months. It is possible that a final decision could be reached by the end of the year.

## Meeting of Action Committee: United Municipal Executive

On the 28th June the Town Clerk and I attended this meeting in Pretoria. The United Municipal Executive is composed of representatives of the four provincial municipal associations and endeavours to offer guidance in matters of common interest. It also acts as liaison between the provincial associations and the various central government departments. I was surprised to see the bulky agenda, and it is not generally realised how many of our local difficulties are common to all municipalities in the Union. One also comes to realise that some degree of regimentation as far as procedures are concerned cannot be avoided.

## Annual Congress of Town Clerks

Clr. de Jongh and the Town Clerk attended the annual conference at Windhoek from the 14th to the 17th June. I am informed that the proceedings were interesting and of great practical value. The most important papers were those read by Sir John Maud, G.C.B., C.B.E., on the Contribution by Executives to Democratic Government, and by Prof. J. L. Sadie on Local Government Finances in the National Economy.

An item which generally elicits lengthy discussion is whether congresses of this nature should be held outside the Union boundaries in view of the high costs of delegations. An interesting view expressed at the congress was that it would be well worth the while of the central government to subsidise such gatherings outside the Union by providing free transport, having in mind the invaluable factor of personal contacts created on such a large scale and which could be worth infinitely more than any official publicity campaign. I think we all realize that South Africa needs many friends beyond its own borders.

## Overseas Visit

I am leaving for a trip overseas in the course of next week and expect to be away for about two months, probably just in time for the municipal elections. The Deputy Mayor, Mr. S. W. J. Liebenberg, and his good wife are due to be back here shortly after their lengthy stay in Europe and I sincerely trust that we shall see them both in good health. We all say to them "Welcome home".

W. C. DEMPSEY